



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Backyard Exploration Series



Water Down the Drain



project **WET**
WATER EDUCATION TODAY



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...like water down the drain.

- ▶ What does that saying mean?



- ▶ Where does water go, when it's going through the drain?





Water will end up back in a river.



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What happens between our homes and the river can be two different paths.

▶ **Inside**

- ▶ Toilet flush
- ▶ Shower/tub
- ▶ Kitchen Sink
- ▶ Washing Machine
- ▶ Dishwasher



Sewer Pipes

▶ **Outside**

- ▶ Hose
- ▶ Sprinkler
- ▶ Down Spout/Gutters
- ▶ Car Washing
- ▶ Rain

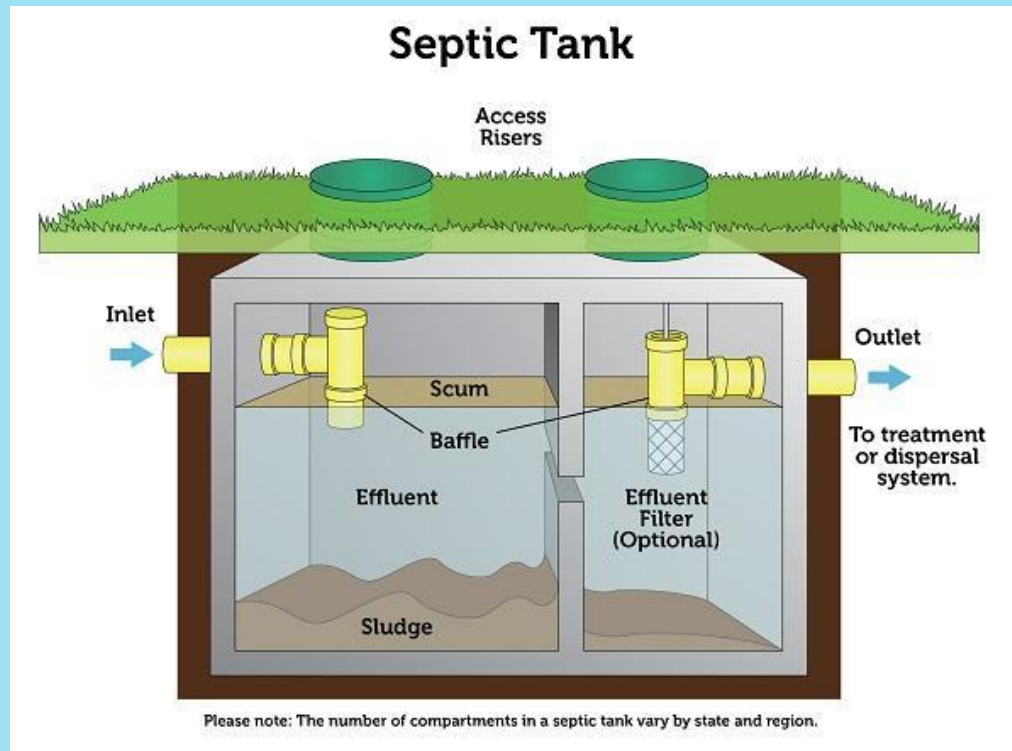


Storm Drains

**We have a septic system.
What about that?**

Septic systems collect waste water and filter it. There are many types of systems, but all allow solids to settle out and disperse the effluent out through pipes to fields. The treatment comes from bacteria and soil structure removing contaminants as water goes back to the ground or rivers

Homeowners must pump out septic tanks to maintain their working order and that is taken to the wastewater facility for treatment.



Sewer pipes take used water with contaminants from inside our homes to the water treatment plant.

- ▶ Visit a treatment plant and learn how the water from sewers is cleaned.

(Click on image for video)



Who does the work?

(Click on image for video)

What about the water that does not come from our homes?

How to help keep it clean!



- ▶ Have you seen these? They are **Storm Drains** and not **sewers**.



- ▶ Water entering these go directly to a river! No treatment plant.
- ▶ Picking up trash helps keep water free of pollution, like plastic.
- ▶ Soaking up the water slows **erosion**.
- ▶ Using less fertilizer reduces pollution in water and algae.

Keep the drain clear.

Keep the water clean.

**DON'T PUT DOWN THE DRAIN
or TOILET**

- ▶ Fats or grease
- ▶ Wipes, Kleenex, paper towels



These things create clogs in the systems and breaks equipment.

- ▶ **Do Not** dump oil or rinse fluids in storm drains.



- ▶ Clean up sand, grass clippings, and leaves.
- ▶ Pick up trash.
- ▶ Pick up after your dog.

Water Saving Begins with Conservation.

- ▶ The average person uses 80-100 gallons of water a day.
- ▶ How much do you use in a day?

Do a Home Water Audit.

- ▶ How can you help conserve water?

Play along and be a wise water user?